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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7028
INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE
RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC
RHMCSSU/FAA NATIONAL HQ WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS CAIRO 002904

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STATE FOR NEA/ELA(RANA)
STATE ALSO FOR EEB/TRA/OTP (HAYWOOD) AND EEB/CBA

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: DELTA AIRLINES TO ANNOUNCE NEW YORK-CAIRO NON-STOP
SERVICE

¶11. Cairo General Manager for Delta Air Lines Karim Nabhan told us that Delta plans to announce on September 26 the establishment of non-stop New York-Cairo-New York service beginning on June 4, 2008. The flight will operate 5 times per week (SU,M,TU,W,F from JFK and M,TU,W,TH,SA from Cairo) and will utilize Boeing 767-300ER aircraft. Currently, only EgyptAir operates a non-stop Egypt-U.S. service.

¶12. Nabhan said that existing demand and positive passenger growth forecasts are driving the decision, but Delta expects opportunities for air cargo growth as well. The establishment of direct, non-stop service will spell the end of the current Paris CDG-Cairo codeshare agreement with Air France, although Air France will still handle some cargo business. Delta's previous attempt at a non-stop JFK-Cairo service was short-lived -- Delta inaugurated the service in June 2001 and canceled it shortly after 9/11.

JONES